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United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALINA, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Jeff Groom**, 37, Salina, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to one count of receiving and distributing child pornography and one count of forfeiture of the computer and related equipment used to commit this crime.

Melgren said that on October 24, 2002, a search warrant was executed at Groom's residence and Groom's computer and related computer equipment was seized. An analysis of the computer revealed thousands of images of child pornography. Groom admitted at his plea that he has been collecting child pornography for approximately ten years and that he obtained and distributed child pornography over the internet.

Groom faces a maximum of fifteen years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for January 9, 2004, at 10:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway in this prosecution.